The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

APR 16 1917

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1915, at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 7. NO. 3. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1917 WHOLE NO. 31[illegible]

PROFITEERS CHECKED BY FEDERAL STATUTE

New York, April 14.—In Wall street it is agreed that the day for unbridled war profits is gone and that the Washington administration has concluded that if some people must contribute their lives, other people must at least be checked in an exploitation heretofore associated with war.

While many business concerns are placing their plants at the disposal of the government, it is not generally known that recent legislation empowers the president of the United States to seize these plants any time he believes excessive charges are insisted upon or whenever the management of any plant does not give the government preference in the filling of orders during war or when war is imminent.

It is whispered in financial circles that the reason managers of copper mines reduced the price of copper for government use to 17 cents, or one-half the present market price, was because these managers became aware that federal authorities were preparing to set their own price on copper and that the 17-cent mark was made in the hope that prices would not be placed below that figure.

Under the army reorganization act, passed last year, the president is given unlimited authority to take "immediate possession of any concern whose management refuses to give precedence to United States orders for military supplies in time of war or when war is imminent.

Seizure is also provided in the event of failure to refuse to furnish arms, ammunition, or parts of ammunition, or other supplies or equipment, "at a reasonable price as determined by the secretary of war."

Under this law "confiscation," "running our own business," and other shibboleths of business men are discarded as terms of other ages. Violation of this statute is declared a felony and the responsible heads of the offending individual, firm, company, association or corporation shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned not more than three years and fined not exceeding $50,000.

GOVERNMENT CUTS BID.

Washington, April 14.—The E. W. Bliss company, New York, the only private long-range torpedo manufacturing concern in this country, has felt the effect of a recent statute which permits the government to set a "reasonable" price for war munitions or supplies.

The company's bid for torpedoes was declared too high by Secretary of Navy Daniels. The company cut $300 on each torpedo, but this was unsatisfactory, and the matter was referred to the bureau of ordnance with instructions to estimate a "reasonable" price. The bureau reported a cut of $1,200 on each torpedo, and the Bliss company was forwarded a cold, matter-of-fact letter, in which it was stated that:

"These prices have been determined upon in consultation with this bureau, are reasonable, and undoubtedly will result in an eminently fair and equitable profit to the company.

"You will, therefore, proceed with the manufacture of these torpedoes, giving them priority over all other work, and will do your utmost to deliver them within the time specified in the contracts under consideration."

As the law permits the government to seize the Bliss plant, the company announced that it "would gladly accept the order at the price named."

This transaction saved the government $1,192,000. The steel trust has also felt the effect of the new law and has reduced prices $15,000,000 for army and navy supplies.

INJUNCTION A MENACE.

Sacramento, Cal., April 14.—"If there is a law against violence in California, and there surely is, the people have already issued an injunction against it and have provided how each shall be punished" said President Furuseth of the International Seamen's union, in supporting an anti-injunction bill at a public hearing.

"When the courts of equity take jurisdiction over and issue injunctions in labor disputes," he continued, "they do so to protect business, which, under late rulings by several courts, is held to be property. These rulings are condemned by other courts, which hold that relations between employers and employes, between buyer and seller, are personal relations, and, as such, if regulated at all, are regulated by statute or common law only."

The campaign of Michigan unionists against injunctions has enraged employers' associations, which make the childish plea that the workers would break laws.

BARBERS STRIKE; RAISE WAGES.

Miles City, Mont., April 14.—After a 24-hour strike, employing barbers agreed to the demands of Barbers' union No. 615—$21 a week and 60 per cent over $33.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., April 14.—The Barbers' union has secured substantial wage increases as the result of a strike that involved practically every shop in this city.

Joplin, Mo., April 14.—Wage increases and an additional guarantee of $2 a week have been secured by the Barbers' union after a short strike.

TRUST "BUSTING" PAYS.

Philadelphia, April 14.—The first quarter of the present year the Standard Oil family companies paid in dividends more than half as much as the oil trust, before dissolution, ever distributed in an entire year, says a local newspaper.

The dividends for the latest quarter reached $32,326,000. This compares with $23,387,000 for the same period of last year and $22,341,000 for the first three months of 1915.

ACTIVE IN DECATUR.

Decatur, Ill., April 14.—Building trades unionists have secured substantial wage increases, effective the first of the month. Carpenters raised wages 10 cents an hour; plumbers, 7 1-2 cents; electricians, 5 cents; hod carriers, 5 cents; painters, an average of 2½ cents.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Uniontown, Pa., April 14.—Brewery managers in this county have signed a contract with Brewery Workers' union No. 300 that will continue until 1920. Wages are increased 12 per cent and improved working conditions are agreed to.

BRICKLAYERS ADVANCE.

Danbury, Conn., April 14.—Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' union has negotiated a new agreement. Wages are increased from $4.50 to $4.80 a day.

KILL EQUAL SUFFRAGE BILL.

St. Paul, Minn., April 14.—Hopes for equal suffrage were blasted by the state senate defeating a bill that would permit women to vote for presidential electors.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW TOTALLY DISCREDITED

Denver, April 14.—Colorado's "can't-strike" law, which was widely heralded as the solution for industrial ills, is so thoroughly discredited by organized workers that state officials are laughed at when they threaten to jail or fine unionists who dare quit their employment without the consent of some politician.

Denver painters and carpenters are the latest to make good the notification to the last legislature that if this law is not repealed, workers will exercise their rights as American citizens.

Members of Painters' union No. 79 were ordered by the state industrial commission to remain at work until their wage demands were investigated. The union's officials notified the commission that a strike would be called if wages were not raised 7 1-2 cents an hour. Many contractors signed the agreement, but 200 of the 300 painters were forced to suspend work. The commission then "cited" about a score of the strikers to appear before this august body and "give testimony." Threats of fine and imprisonment were laughed at by the strikers, who declared that they would stay in jail or at union headquarters until their demands were granted. After four days the commission gravely announced that the painters' demands were just and should be granted. The contractors yielded and now pay their workers $5 a day instead of $4.40.

The Carpenters' District Council has had a similar experience with the state industrial commission, which insisted that this wage movement should be "investigated," according to law. The carpenters expressed regrets, but announced that the management of their own affairs their date for suspending work would not permit of state investigation. The contractors then entered into conference with their employes and after a short session wages were raised 5 cents an hour until October 15, when an additional 5 cents an hour will meet the carpenters' original demand.

RAILROADS NOT CONSISTENT.

Cleveland, April 14.—The Railroad Trainman, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, makes this interesting comparison of the manner in which two pieces of legislation was treated by railroad managers:

"There has not been a reference to the enactment of the Newlands act in 1913 that would lend color to the belief that it was passed under duress. The Adamson eight-hour law of 1916, passed under exactly similar circumstances, has not been referred to in certain circles as anything else. The difference between the two measures is, that the first one was enacted at the joint request of the railroad companies and the organizations of railroad employes, while the other was enacted at the suggestion of the president of the United States after both the railroads and their employes had laid the merits of their respective sides of the controversy before him and he had declared for and against certain propositions contained in the demands of the men.

"The principal reason for declaring the eight-hour law was enacted under duress is that it did not conform to the demands of the railroads that investigation be first in order, to be followed by arbitration, in which demand the railroad companies were joined by all of the financial interests of the country, not overlooking the very important fact that the agriculturists played a very close second to the demand. The Adamson law provided exactly what the railroad companies sought, namely, investigation of the facts connected with the cost of operation, so far as wages and hours were concerned. But the railroad companies overlooked their original demand and tied up possible investigation by refusing to obey the law and securing any number of injunctions against its operation."

ROCKEFELLER ANSWERED.

Indianapolis, April 14.—The glittering generalities contained in John D. Rockefeller, Jr's., pamphlet, "The Personal Relation in Industry," does not affect hard-headed Editor Wallace of the United Mine Workers' Journal, who makes this point against Rockefeller's "union":

"What does it benefit a man if he may meet representatives of the employers at times set, while it is possible and even probable that if he stated his real ideas he would be instantly discharged? How can any individual worker state the wishes of his fellows when it is impossible to hold meetings except at the call, and in the presence of, the representatives of the employer? What can it profit if the case really was stated and there is no redress except it comes as a favor granted?"

LABOR EDITORS TO MEET.

Springfield, Ill., April 14.—Secretary-Treasurer Woodmansee of the International Labor Press of America has issued the call for the annual convention of labor editors to be held at St. Louis, Mo., beginning Tuesday, May 8. The meetings will be held at the Majestic hotel, which will also be convention headquarters. Secretary Woodmansee states that the association has made good progress during the year, and his report will show that the membership has increased about 40 per cent. President Gompers and Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L. have been invited to make addresses, and an invitation is extended all labor papers, whether members of the association or not, to be present at this time.

WORTHY LABOR BILL KILLED.

Hartford, Conn., April 14.—The house has defeated a bill that would prevent women and minors from being employed in grinding metal on machines or on buffing work, although it was shown this work breeds disease.

Assemblyman Smith spoke against the bill as "a friend of labor." He said the plan was only intended to get the women and children out of the factories and get the men in at better wages. He believed the women could take care of themselves and should not be forced out of their work by legislation.

TAILORS RAISE WAGES.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 14.—Journeymen Tailors' union No. 131 has negotiated a successful wage movement after a short strike. Rates are increased 10 per cent and improved working conditions are assured.

The successful ending of this movement was possible after insistent agitation that increased the union's membership.

PAINTERS LOCKED OUT.

Hannibal, Mo., April 14.—The Master Painters' association has locked out members of Painters' union No. 280 because of wage disagreements. The employers objecting to Saturday afternoon half-holidays, even though the unionists agreed to arrange matters so work would not be suspended.

SMALL TIPS LEGALIZED BY NEW YORK COURT

Albany, N. Y., April 14.—While trade unionists protest against the tip system and urge a definite living wage, the appellate division of the supreme court for the third department holds that tips, if not too large, are to be considered as wages. An extra large tip belongs to the proprietor.

The wife and son of a taxicab driver who was killed asked the court to award compensation based on wages that covered both the money paid by the taxi company and the tips paid by customers. The insurance company that insured the taxi people against loss under the workmen's compensation law contended that tips are not a part of wages. The court decided that they are, and in his opinion, Presiding Judge Kellogg said:

"The employe could not have received the tips if the employer had not put him in the way of getting them, and we may well conclude that the tips were an advantage received from the employer similar in effect to board, lodging or rent furnished in addition to the money wages paid.

"The person rendering the service considers that the tip is his as a matter of right, and involves no particular favor. An extra large tip may be appropriated, but the ordinary tip is considered a payment of money actually due. The usual tips have come to be considered a part of the cost of the entertainment at a hotel, upon a sleeper or public conveyance, and it is realized both by the person paying and receiving them that it is a part payment of the wages which the employer compels the person served to pay."

COSSACKS FOR NEW YORK.

Albany, N. Y., April 14.—Both branches of the state legislature have passed a bill providing for the establishment of the state police system.

Manufacturers and their allies made the farmer "the goat" in this campaign by insisting that cossacks were needed to protect "the rural communities. Opponents denied the theory that 200 cossacks can detect crime and prevent crime within a territory of 50,000 square miles and showed that investigators in New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts have found the cossack system a vicious machine.

The manufacturers' victory ends a three-years' campaign, which was supported almost unanimously by the public press. The author of the bill is Senator Mills, who favored a compulsory insurance bill affecting all employes receiving less than $200 a month.

Under the terms of the bill the cossacks will be composed of four troops, each composed of 58 men, and will be under the direction of a superintendent, to be appointed by the governor.

NEW MONTANA LEGISLATION.

Helena, Mont., April 14.—The state legislature has passed the following legislation of interest to workers:

Women's eight-hour law; eight hours [illegible] in smelters, and under ground mines and wherever sugar is manufactured; railroad companies required to report delayed trains; medicine and medical attendance to the sick and infirm in counties; free text books; permitting cities and towns to establish swimming pools, skating rinks, play grounds, etc.; fire department employes of first and second class cities shall be limited to 14 hours' continuous duty in every 24 hours; regulating sanitary conditions under which wall paper or substitute wall covering shall be applied in tenements; regulation of electrical appliances and construction; child welfare division of the state board of health created; study of elementary agriculture added to the course of study in elementary schools; pensions to mothers having dependent children.

OPPOSE INJUNCTION WRIT.

Lansing, Mich., April 14.—Labor closed its present anti-injunction campaign before a joint meeting of the labor committees of the house and senate, whose members listened to arguments by many trade unionists in favor of limiting the power of judges to issue these orders. Judge Jeffries, of Detroit, aided the unionists in an able address on the evils of the injunction writ, which has been developed, he declared, to such a point that its abuse is unbearable. He said there was an adequate remedy at law to right any supposed wrong to which an injunction will lie.

RETAIL CLERKS GAIN.

Billings, Mont., April 14.—Conference between the Retail Clerks' union and the Employers' association have resulted in wage increases of about $10 a month for all classes of workers. Inexperienced male clerks are increased $15 a month. The minimum wage for all clerks during the coming year will be: Experienced men clerks, $80 a month; inexperienced men clerks, $2.50 a day; male apprentices, $40 a month; experienced women clerks, $50 a month; female apprentices, $25 a month.

CAR MEN SECURE INCREASES.

Colorado Springs, Col., April 14.—While employes of the Colorado Springs and Interurban Railway company were considering the submission of wage increases the company officials announced a general raise in rates that will total $10,000 a year. The increases range from $5 to $10 a month for all employes, except trackmen, who are advanced 25 cents a day.

MOSAIC WORKERS ADVANCE.

Detroit, April 14.—Mosaic and Terazzo Workers' union No. 15,117 has won its strike for better conditions, contractors agreeing to pay this wage scale: First class mechanics, $4.75; second class mechanics, $4.50; helpers, $3.50, for an eight-hour day. Work done on Sundays and legal holidays shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half.

LINEMEN WIN STRIKE.

St. Paul, Minn., April 14.—The St. Paul Gas Light company has agreed to recognize officials of Electrical Workers' union No. 23 and the strike against this concern has been declared off. All demands have been granted and strikebreakers are discharged.

TEXAS BUILDERS MEET.

Dallas, Tex., April 14.—At the annual convention of the Texas Building Trades Council it was recommended that the Mexican labor problem in the western section of this state be taken up with the Texas congressional delegation.

MEAT CUTTERS ORGANIZE.

Aurora, Ill., April 14.—Meat cutters and butcher workmen have organized and secured progress with several large[illegible]

OREGON'S WAGE LAW FOR WOMEN IS LEGAL

Washington, April 14.—The United States supreme court has upheld the Oregon minimum wage law for women and the theory of "the right of contract" has been dealt a staggering blow.

The court sustained the act by a 4-to-4 vote and as a result no opinion—or reason—was recorded by the judges, who simply announced that the law was upheld. Justice Brandeis took no part in the deliberations as he had appeared before the court as counsel for the law before his appointment as justice.

It is the first time the court has rendered a decision of this character which will affect women's minimum wage laws of various kinds in Colorado, Arkansas, Washington, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, Utah, Massachusetts and Nebraska.

The Oregon law empowers the state industrial welfare commission to fix the hours of women and children and the wages of women in any occupation. A Portland box manufacturer brought suit to enjoin the operation of the law on the ground that it deprived him of property without due process of law. The Oregon state supreme court upheld the law.

TRUST'S WAGE INCREASE CAN'T CONCEAL PROFITS

New York, April 14.—While the public press is jubilant over wage increases announced by the United States steel corporation, comparative mention is seldom made of the trust's profits during the past year. It is stated that wages have been raised during the last fiscal year from $176,800,000 to $262,285,000.

In round numbers this means an additional $87,000,000 to workers and salaried employes, office men, managers, superintendents, etc. It is stated that the last increase of 10 per cent will benefit "fully 90 per cent of the corporation's 250,000 employes." It is not stated who the 25,000 unfortunate employes are, although some unionists are guessing that the lowest paid of these unorganized workers are the overlooked 10 per cent.

Against this total wage increase of $87,000,000 during the past year can be placed the annual report of the corporation, issued recently, wherein it is stated that the profits for 1916 were $333,625,000, and $44,380,000 for the previous year. This means that the steel trust's profits last year were five times greater than the year before, or a net income of nearly 7½ on each share of common stock, after millions of profits were sidetracked into other funds by means of scientific bookkeeping. Despite the trust's wage increases, the New York Times makes this acknowledgment:

"Labor's share in the gross receipts of the steel corporation last year was smallest, in point of percentage, for any year of the corporation's history, despite the several increases put into operation."

To prove its point, the Times quotes statistics in the Annalist, a local financial paper, which shows labor's per cent of available receipts in 1909 was 54.3, and last year, when most of the wage increases were made, the per cent dropped to 42.4, although the trust's share of available receipts broke all records.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

St. Louis, Mo., April 14.—The new agreement secured by Ice Wagon Drivers' union No. 406 provides for average wage increases of $1 a week.

Holyoke, Mass., April 14.—Team owners in this city have signed a two-year agreement with Teamsters' union No. 187. Wages are increased $1 a week. Starting October 1 next an additional dollar a week will be paid. Nine hours shall constitute a day's work, except for barn men and helpers. After nine hours' work overtime at the rate of price and one-half shall be paid.

Springfield, Ill., April 14.—Teamsters' union No. 72 has signed an agreement with the Team Owners' association, whose members control the cartage business of this city.

BOILER INSPECTIONS NEEDED.

San Francisco, April 14.—In urging the necessity for frequent boiler inspections the state industrial accident commission gives prominence to this statement in its last bulletin: "Have you ever considered what tremendous energy is exerted when a steam boiler explodes? Do you realize that each cubic foot of water under a steam pressure of 60 pounds per square inch contains as much energy as a pound of gun powder? Isn't it necessary that careful inspections be made of steam boilers to determine whether or not they are in a safe condition to operate?"

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, April 14.—The bureau of immigration, department of labor, reports that 23,091 immigrants were admitted to this country during last February. Of the European countries Italy furnished the largest number, 3,466; Greece, 1,181; Russian empire and Finland, 962, and Spain, 807. Not a single immigrant came from Roumania, the source of much cheap labor for American industry, and but four immigrants were listed from Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro.

TREES, NOT HEALTH, CARED FOR

Lawrence, Kan., April 14.—Dr. S. J. Crumbine, state health officer, criticises the action of this city in appropriating $2,000 for the protection of elm trees and refusing an appropriation to fight diseases and threatened epidemics. Dr. Crumbine says he believes elm trees should be protected but he believes that human life is more important.

WIN SENIORITY RIGHTS.

Argenta, Ark., April 14.—Nearly 200 machinists, apprentices and helpers in the Iron Mountain railroad machine shops at Baring Cross, suspended work for 24 hours to enforce seniority rights. Machinists' union No. 325 directed this movement.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Cincinnati, April 14.—Bakery Drivers' union has signed an agreement with a large number of employers who will raise wages immediately $1 a week.

WORKERS MUST UNITE TO SECURE JUSTICE

Chicago, April 14.—"The organization of labor on trade union lines is labor's natural weapon against the encroachments of capital, and the organized movement must embrace every occupation and industry," writes President Perkins of the International Cigar Makers' union in the official journal of that organization.

"Labor's share in the results of production is inadequate; it does not cover the waste of vital force," he says. "It does not provide for wear and tear; for depreciation of physical force. There is no provision for insurance, for invalidity and old age. The average compensation paid is inadequate to provide for the maintenance of bodily vigor and labor power in the process of production.

"Capital, on the other hand, claims everything; it charges an excessive price for management and personal service; it insists upon regular profits and dividends; it takes into account probable losses; it charges for insurance, depreciation of building and machinery. It adds contingent expenses; some items which could not stand the test of publicity.

"Stock watering is a favorite device in order to conceal the excessive profits gained from operation. Thus the amount of capital invested is sometimes doubled and trebled, by the issuance of bonds and stocks, without the addition of a single dollar to the original capital paid in by the stockholders in the corporation. This process of stock watering tends to increase constantly the share received by capital, and to diminish the proportionate share received by labor.

"The system of distribution of the profits of industry is fundamentally wrong; there is no equitable standard. It is all haphazard. All forces operate in favor of capital and against labor. In a few industries, where corporate power is comparatively weak, and labor organizations are well fortified, labor's share is approximately fair, but not wholly so. In others it is grossly unfair, with no redeeming feature whatsoever.

"With the masses of the people organized in trade unions, labor's share in the production will grow in proportion to its power."

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES

Orange, N. J., April 14.—Painters' union No. 362 has negotiated a one-year agreement that raises wages from $3.75 to $4 a day.

Augusta, Ga., April 14.—After a four-hours' strike Painters' union secured a union-shop agreement, a 44-hour week and a wage increase of 5 cents an hour.

Pittston, Pa., April 14.—Wages have been increased from $3 to $3.60 a day by Painters' union No. 486.

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 14.—Painters' union No. 113 is winning its strike for higher wages. Over 100 of these workers are being paid the new 50-cent rate.

Peoria, Ill., April 14.—Members of Painters' union No. 157 are now working under their new wage agreement, which raises wages 5 cents an hour.

Topeka, Kan., April 14.—A three-days' strike of organized painters secured an agreement with employers. Wages are raised from 45 to 50 cents an hour.

50,000 WHITE ILLITERATES.

Columbia, S. C., April 14.—George D. Brown, state supervisor of mill schools, gives this sidelight on conditions confronting South Carolina workers who would improve living standards:

"In the state of South Carolina there are over 50,000 white illiterates. Many, if not a majority, are found in mill villages. Of our 194 corporations, 71 provide night schools, pupils from 98 mill districts attended, total enrollment over 5,000 pupils.

"Poverty and misfortune make it impossible for many of the grown people to earn a living for the family; such people move to the place where the children can be used most advantageously. Mill work is inviting to men who are physically incapacitated for making a success on the farm, and to women with large families, who must depend for their living upon the daily income of their own labor."

"THE SKY'S THE LIMIT."

Grand Forks, N. D., April 14.—At a meeting of the Non-Partisan league President Townley asked the farmers what price they would put on their organization, which has swept the state and captured an entire state government. He assured them that big interests would gladly buy them off, as they are spending thousands to fight the league.

"Surely you will set some figure," said President Townley. "Let's hear what it is. There must be some limit."

"The sky's the limit," shouted a farmer, and this sentiment was applauded.

TO MEET ON LUDLOW'S FIELD.

Ludlow, Col., April 14.—Sunday, April 22, organized miners will hold an agitation meeting on the site of the tent colony where women and children were shot by armed thugs in April, 1914. In two short years the miners are in the midst of a vigorous organizing campaign and have secured a three-year contract with the Victor-American Fuel company, one of their opponents during the 1913-14 strike.

HUGE PROFITS IN FIRE ARMS.

Hartford, Conn., April 14.—Low wage employes of the Colt Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing company should be interested in the annual report of this concern, which shows profits for the year were 250 per cent, or $6,346,721.28. The capital stock of the company has been increased from $2,500,000 to $5,000,000. There are 2,674 employes on the payroll.

MACHINISTS WANT MORE.

Nashville, Tenn., April 14.—Practically every machine shop in this city was affected by last week's strike order of Machinists' union No. 154, which is attempting to enforce a higher wage scale. Several employers have agreed to pay the new rate.

KILL FELLOW-SERVANT BILL.

Nashville, Tenn., April 14.—The house has defeated the fellow-servant measure even after it had been amended to apply to 20 or more counties and to exempt others. The women's minimum wage bill, which prohibited wages of less than $6 a week, was also killed.

CARPENTERS ADVANCE.

Allentown, Pa., April 14.—Organized carpenters in this city and Bethlehem have secured eight-hour agreements whereby provide for substantial wage increases.

KENTUCKY MINERS OPPOSE FEUDALISM

Indianapolis, April 14.—"The struggle for organization of the miners is still meeting with fierce opposition in the strongholds of the St. Bernard Coal company and allied companies in western Kentucky," says the United Mine Workers' Journal.

"Refusing to recognize the fact that industrial feudalism, as strenuously defended in West Virginia and Colorado, has proved itself an utter failure and is fast being replaced by industrial democracy in those states, the Kentucky coal operators are still seeking to maintain their closed camps, closed to the local business men and farmers as well as to the union organizers.

"But the miners of Kentucky are fast awakening. While discharge is the immediate penalty meted out to those known to have joined the union, an ever increasing number of the miners are accepting such penalty in preference to working under conditions that approximate slavery.

"The citizens of Kentucky, those who have lived near the mining camps, are loudly protesting against the methods adopted by the operators. They have seen their neighbors that were, even their relatives driven out of the country to make room for the imported workers from the south who, at that time, accepted the work under conditions the native miners had revolted against, and today, when those who were the imported strikers in the early strikes, in turn ask for more humane conditions and are threatened with deportation in turn, their places to be taken by still other, and more degraded workers from the far south, the citizens of the country are revolting; are demanding of the company by what right do they degrade the workers to the lowest and then throw the burden of their outworn workers and their families upon the community?

"This question will demand an answer; even the most powerful corporations cannot withstand the increasing discontent, the condemnation of the entire community, that is affected directly by their methods of conducting their plants."

STEADY GAINS BY CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, April 14.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports the following recent gains secured without strikes, by locals of this craft:

Derby, Conn.—Wages increased from 45 to 50 cents an hour. Sedalia, Mo.—40 to 50 cents. Cincinnati, O.—45 to 50 cents; hours reduced from nine to eight. San Francisco—Machine workers raised wages from $4.50 to $4.75 a day for new work and $5 to $5.50 for old work; after three months rates will be raised to $5 and $6 respectively. Haverhill, Mass.—[illegible] cents an hour. Albany, [illegible].—Two-year agreement from 34 to 44 to until May 1, 1918, and $4.50 thereafter. Seattle—$5.50 to $5.50 until August 1, 1917; $6.00 thereafter. Denver—From 65 to 70 cents until October 1, 1917; 75 cents thereafter. Jacksonville, Fla.—$3 to $3.60, starting June 1, 1917. Steubenville, O.—[illegible] cents. Hazleton, Pa.—$2 3-4 to [illegible]; Saturday half holiday. Minneapolis[illegible]—45 cents until April 1, [illegible] cents thereafter. Oneida, N. Y.[illegible] cents. Fostoria, O.—35 to [illegible]. Oil City, Pa.—$2.75 to $4.25 until August 1, 1917; $4.50 thereafter. Uhrichsville, O.—[illegible] cents; hours reduced from nine to eight. Bar Harbor, Me.—$3.60 to $4. Decatur, Ill.—50 to 60 cents. Columbus, Ind.—35 and 35 cents to 40 cents.

Philadelphia, April 14.—Organized carpenters and contractors' associations have settled wage differences and signed a one-year contract. The minimum rate shall be 65 cents an hour. Work done on Saturday afternoons, Sundays, New Year's, Memorial day, Independence day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas shall be paid at the rate of double time. No work shall be done on Labor day.

FORD'S PLAN CRITICISED.

Philadelphia, April 14.—Ford's $5-a-day plan was criticised by speakers at the national employment managers' conference. Several of these employers deplored "always keeping the almighty dollar before a man's nose," and not permitting him to develop his "creative faculties." One speaker agreed, however, that the economic pressure must be removed from employes before results can be secured from any efficiency system.

Trade unionists are asking how "creative faculties" can be developed by a worker standing before a machine all day and who makes but one monotonous motion.

NEW TEXAS LEGISLATION.

Austin, Tex., April 14.—A new employers' liability law has been passed by the state legislature. The law makers first expressed much opposition to the plan, but this was nullified after the state industrial board, the executive committee of the state federation of labor, the employers' organization and others agreed upon an amended bill.

Other legislation secured is a mothers' pension, free text books; amendment to the state constitution; establishment of a department for the registration of vital statistics, child labor law strengthened.

NON-UNIONISTS STRIKE.

Detroit, April 14.—Non-union pattern makers employed by the City Pattern Works and the Eastern Construction company have tired of conditions at these plants and have gone on strike. When the recent strike of organized pattern makers was settled these firms repudiated the agreement and have been advertising throughout the country to man their non-union shops. Many of the strikers have joined the Pattern Makers' association.

BAKERS SECURE UNION SHOP.

Louisville, Ky., April 14.—The Tip-Top bakery has signed a union shop agreement with Bakery Workers' union. All strikers are reinstated. Wages are increased 10 per cent and a six-day week of nine and one-half hours a day is granted. Old conditions were a seven-day week and 11 hours a day.

STAGE EMPLOYES RAISE WAGES.

Tacoma, Wash., April 14.—Stage Employes' union No. [illegible] has signed a new wage agreement with the leading theaters in this city. The stage hands are increased from $21 to $22.50 a week; electricians, from $25 to $27.50; property men, $22.50 to $25.50; fly men, $22.50 to $25 and $3 for four hours' work; [illegible].

SHOP MEN WANT MORE.

Kansas City, Mo., April 14.—Federations of railroad shop [illegible] in division of railroad employes are about to negotiate wage increases and changes in working conditions. This territory includes all territory west of Chicago.

TEN-HOUR LAW UPHELD BY U. S. SUPREME COURT

Washington, April 14.—State's have the right to limit the hours of labor in private industry to 10 a day, [illegible] custom in our industries [illegible] a longer service than 10 hours per day," says the United States supreme court, in upholding the Oregon 10-hour day law for men employed in mills, factories and manufacturing establishments.

This law does not apply to workers whose hours of labor are regulated by the industrial welfare commission of Oregon.

The court divided on the 10-hour law decision—Chief Justice White and Justices Van Devanter and McReynolds dissenting. Justice Brandeis took no part in the case, as he appeared as counsel in favor of the law when it was first heard by the court.

Oregon adopted the law in 1913 and this was the first time the supreme court passed upon an hours-of-service law that included all male workers, although practically every state limits the hours of labor in certain industries and [illegible] because of danger involved or excessive fatigue. The Oregon law includes every industry and provides that overtime shall be paid in excess of 10 hours.

F. O. Bunting, a lake county, Oregon, manufacturer, employed George H. [illegible] overtime in excess of ten hours and refused to pay him overtime. Bunting was arrested and fined. He appealed to the state supreme court, which sustained the law. He then asked the United States supreme court to overrule the [illegible] on the ground of class legislation in that [illegible] applied only to mills, factories, and manufacturing establishments, and that it was a wage law.

In upholding the law the United States supreme court said:

"The permission for overtime is permissive in the same sense that any penalty may be said to be permissive. Its purpose is to deter by its burden and its adequacy for this was a matter for legislative judgment under the particular circumstances. New policies are usually tentative in the beginning, advance in permanence as they advance in acceptance."

The court quoted with approval this decision of the Oregon supreme court: "In view of the well-known fact that the custom in our industries does not sanction a longer service than 10 hours per day it cannot be held as a matter of law that the legislative requirement is unreasonable or arbitrary as to the hours of labor."

TERM "LAWFULLY" DEFINED.

Chicago, April 14.—Opponents of labor's anti-injunction bill are claiming that the legislation would permit strikers to invade the premises of employers. [illegible] will through [illegible] Secretary Olander of the state federation of labor calls attention to this section of the proposed law:

"Or from attending at any place where any such person or persons may lawfully be."

In denying that labor is attempting to slip a "joker" into the law, the trade unionists [illegible]

[illegible]

PAY FOR CRIPPLED TOILERS.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 14.—Disbursement of industrial workers in Pennsylvania during 1916, the first year of operation of the state workmen's compensation law, led to an aggregate of more than half a million dollars being paid to the injured persons. [illegible] the passage of the compensation act they would have received very little or nothing.

This money was paid out for loss of arms, legs and feet. The total amount was $[illegible]. The aggregate [illegible] three eyes had the [illegible], whether the eye itself was removed or not; arms, hands and feet were amputated to the number of 224.

"This money total is only the amount actually paid, or to be paid, to individuals, to the injured workers," said J. Price Jackson, state commissioner of labor and industry. "It does not include the cost of medical and surgical service, which the employers paid."

Total compensation awards during 1916 were $4,[illegible], of which [illegible] eighth went for dismemberment.

ADOPT TWO-PLATOON PLAN.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 14.—After many years of agitation Philadelphia firemen won their fight for shorter hours when Gov. Brumbaugh signed the two-platoon bill.

This measure, which becomes effective on January 1, 1918, provides that the firefighters shall work two shifts instead of the present system, which compels a fireman to remain on duty five days and five nights. Under the new system the day force will work 10 hours and the night force 14 hours.

At present firemen get but one day off in every six, and except for the three hours allowed for meals, are on duty continuously.

APPRENTICE BILL KILLED.

Sacramento, Cal., April 14.—The [illegible] minor apprentice bill, which proposed to make it a crime for [illegible] organization [illegible] of apprentices, [illegible] a vote of 28 to [illegible].

Organized [illegible] measure, which was supported by the state [illegible]

PICKETING UPHELD.

Reading, Pa., April 14.—The [illegible] strikers in picketing [illegible] Wagner to dissolve an injunction brought by [illegible] of a cigar factory [illegible] strike [illegible] Cigar Makers [illegible]

STEAM SHOVEL MEN STRIKE.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 14.—Steam Shovel and Dredgemen's union [illegible]

WOMEN'S HOURS REDUCED.

[illegible], April 14.—[illegible]